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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. The Soviet propaganda follow-up to Khrushchev's UNGA attendance and to his October 20 Moscow speech heavily stressed the Soviet leader's "victory" in New York, especially on the colonialism issue. Special supplements of Pravda and Izvestiya were published on the October 12-13 discussions on colonialism at the UNGA, and since on the days in question the Soviet bloc representatives spoke substantively whereas most of the other delegates stayed within the confines of the procedural issue, special supplements furthered the idea that the west was unable to respond adequately to Soviet arguments on colonialism. Press coverage throughout the week gave heavy emphasis to the colonialism issue, particularly in regard to Latin America (see 4 below). Press reports on the disarmament discussion in the Political Committee repeated Khrushchev's point that if the work of the Committee did not satisfy the USSR it would cease to participate, although there was no indication when the Soviets intended to withdraw. Propaganda on the need for reform of the UN structure was marked in the earlier part of the week by attacks on Secretary General Hammarskjold, but this theme tended to become less evident as the week progressed. The propaganda effort on Khrushchev's UN performance continued against a background in which the US Presidential elections and Soviet-Chinese differences were doubtless main considerations. As far as the elections were concerned, Soviet propaganda continued to insist that there was no essential difference between the two candidates. Soviet-Chinese strains again rose above the surface in the form of articles in Soviet journals.

2. Sino-Soviet differences were again prominently aired in a leading Soviet journal. Questions of Philosophy (No. 9), received this week by the Embassy although signed for the press Sept. 5, contained two articles strongly critical of CPR positions. The late delivery of the journal suggested the possibility that publication had been held up pending developments in Moscow-Peiping relations, perhaps with regard to the holding of meetings. In any event, the articles indicated the continuing severity of the differences between the two sides.

One article, "V.I. Lenin and the Problems of Peaceful Coexistence," was a forceful restatement of Khrushchev's thesis at the Bucharest meeting in June on the need for creative interpretation of Lenin's teachings on the relations between socialist and capitalist states. While the revisionist danger was dealt with briefly, the article concentrated its fire on dogmatism and sectarianism, which, it said, "betray the spirit of creative Marxism." The article in conclusion predicated successful struggle against bourgeois and revisionist conceptions on the "decisive overcoming of dogmatism in the question of mutual relations of the socialist and capitalist systems."

A second article, "Unity and Solidarity of Socialist Countries--Basis of the Strength of the World System of Socialism," discussed the issue of the transition from socialism to communism of bloc countries. In so doing, it discussed the present level of economic achievement of the various bloc countries, placing the CPR in the second-lowest category as a country which

is quickly being transformed from an agrarian to an industrial-agrarian economy. This categorization seemed intended to cut the ground from under Chinese Communists' pretensions to ideological superiority. In addition, the article warned that it was impossible to make the transition directly to communism from capitalism, avoiding the socialist stage of development, and that "regular and natural process of gradual transition from socialism to communism cannot be arbitrarily violated or circumvented." The article contained a further warning that "it is impossible in contemporary historical conditions to build socialism in an individual country isolated, cut off from the world system of socialism, since this inevitably would engender enormous difficulties, would deprive such a country of the possibility of using the great advantages of the world socialist system." Finally the article criticized the tendency "to develop in each country all branches of contemporary industry," which, it said, "can complicate the further development and intensification of the international socialist division of labor." These charges and warnings seemed to point to the existence of Moscow-Peiping differences on economic planning which in turn may form part of the background of reports concerning the withdrawal of Soviet technicians from the CPR.

Earlier in the week the Soviet press published the Chinese leaders' reply to Soviet greetings on the occasion of the 11th CPR anniversary. The Chinese message might best be described as cool, restrained, and correct. It twice hailed the USSR as the leader of the socialist camp and paid tribute to Soviet achievements and to Soviet support in the Chinese revolutionary struggle and the building of socialism. On the other hand, there was no reference to Khrushchev in the body of the message and one passage could be interpreted as a critical reflection on Soviet lack of militancy.

The 10th anniversary of the Chinese Communist entry into the Korean war, apparently strongly emphasized in Peiping, received only brief coverage in the Soviet press.

3. Berlin/Germany. Soviet charges of alleged provocations from West Berlin were stepped up this week. Following the earlier denunciation of plans to create a volunteer auxiliary police reserve (WEEKKA NO. 43), Soviet press items characterized as "provocations" the Freedom Bell ceremony, the confiscation action against Die Wahrheit, and the Oct. 18 Senat statement on West German responsibility to represent West Berlin in international matters. The articles all reiterated the Soviet contention that "West Berlin lies on the territory of the GDR."

The Soviet press made the most (in cartoons particularly) of the news that West German military aircraft had "buzzed" a British Comet which was carrying the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Several reports were also published on the news of the opening of German depots and bases in France, quoting French press opposition to the move. As could be expected, the Soviets criticized the French policy of accepting Bundeswehr units in France and recalled the invasions of 1870, 1914, and 1940.

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4. Latin-America: A sharp increase in Soviet press attention to developments in Cuba and Latin America in general occurred this week. The alleged plans and preparations for a counter-revolutionary invasion of Cuba from Guatemalan bases were reported on an almost daily basis by all papers. (See WEEKA No. 43). The subject of Guantanamo, previously seldom mentioned, began to assume more prominence usually in the form of reports from Mexican and Honduran papers. One report contended that the US would soon launch an offensive from the base on the pretext that it was being threatened. Although Soviet press attention to the Cuban situation has markedly increased, there has been no reference to Soviet intentions nor any reiteration of Khrushchev's statement about supporting Castro with rockets.

The travels of the Cuban economic delegation headed by "Che" Guevara have been noted in the Soviet press on a daily basis. The report of their departure from Cuba stated that the delegation would visit the USSR, CPR, North Korea, and the GDR.

A special feature page on developments in Latin America was published in Pravda Oct. 26. Dominating the page was a long article by Jacob Arbenz, former Guatemala premier, on the alleged surge of Latin American popular support for "freedom" and anti-American sentiment. No indication was given of Arbenz's present location. The special page also included a message from Luis de la Fuente, Secretary-General of the Peruvian APRA party, praising Khrushchev's UNGA efforts against colonialism.

A cautious but hopeful assessment of the significance of Quadros' victory in the Brazilian elections was published in Izvestiya Oct. 21. The article cited alleged past statements by Quadros indicating that he plans to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR and CPR.

5. Algiers. Soviet commentary and declarations of support for the Algerian rebels was sustained this week. (See WEEKA 43). In addition to a number of feature articles on various facets of the struggle and its ramifications in France, there were "Observer" articles in both Pravda and Izvestiya. The "Observer" articles both included reference to Soviet aid to the Algerians and spoke of Khrushchev's pledge to grant "all kinds of assistance to the Algerian people in their fight for freedom." Soustelle and Gen. Salan were depicted as actively threatening the De Gaulle regime, while De Gaulle himself was criticized for abandoning his originally proclaimed "moderate objectives." Izvestiya, for example, derogated present French policy stating "Between the formula of the ultras -- French Algeria, and the formula of De Gaulle-Algerian Algeria, there is no longer any difference."

6. The Iraqi government's measures against communist-dominated labor unions were reported to the Soviet public in a Trud (Oct. 27) summary of an open letter to Kassem by the Secretary General of the Iraqi Trade Union Federation. A Trud introduction to the letter explained anti-union activities in Iraq in terms of actions by local authorities. However, the grim picture painted for the Soviet public by the Iraqi union leaders' letter put the Kassem regime in a sharply anti-democratic light which conveyed the impression of increasing Soviet reservations about the Iraqi Premier.

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INTERNAL

7. Leadership: Except for A.I. MEKHAYAN and G.V. KUSININ, all of the Moscow resident members and candidate members of the Central Committee Presidium appeared in public during the past week. Although present at a luncheon for the British trade union delegation October 24, L.I. BREZHNEV was absent from the leadership line-up at the opening of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session October 25, a Kremlin Theatre performance that evening, and the Red Square funeral of Marshal M.I. NEDELIN October 27. Having advertised in several conversations his intent to leave Moscow October 25 for a short vacation on the Black Sea, N.S. KHRUSHCHEV may have done so. He was not present at the funeral although he was in attendance at the Kremlin Theatre the evening of October 25. As it happened, K. Ye. VOROSHILOV was the ranking representative of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium at the funeral and, perhaps for this reason, was listed immediately after the Party Presidium personages and before Minister of Defense Marshal P. Ya. MALINOVSKIY in the press accounts. Voroshilov was also sighted in a television film sequence of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet session October 25, and had been (well down) among the signers of the Nedelin obituary published October 27.

The Embassy has no evidence to confirm a rumor that M.A. SUSLOV recently has been active in addressing party meetings on theoretical problems including the Soviet-Chinese controversy. On the other hand, there have been various opportunities for him to speak before party groups as, for example, at a plenum of the Moscow Oblast Party Committee held October 24.

8. RSFSR Supreme Soviet Meets: During a busy three-day meeting October 25-27, the RSFSR Supreme Soviet heard many speeches and unanimously approved draft legislation on (1) measures for improving cultural services in the countryside, (2) the protection of nature (for better conservation of natural resources, forests and wildlife as well as stricter action against industrial air, ground and water pollution), (3) the recall of deputies of local Soviets, (4) modifications in the court system (more "democratic" mode of electing judges and "people's assessors" with an increase to five years in term of office for judges and a reduction from three to two years for the "assessors"), (5) new penal and criminal process codes (drafted months ago, subjected to periodic attention, "discussion" and some changes during the interim period, but not available yet in the form approved by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet), and (6) minor constitutional amendments to accord with various organizational changes in RSFSR government structure since the last Supreme Soviet session. As usual in such cases, the Supreme Soviet also put its seal of approval on all interim decisions and actions by its Presidium.

Despite lengthy tributes to Soviet "care for nature" and achievements with regard to the protection of natural resources and fauna, there have been so many "exceptional" malpractices described in pre-session writings and in speeches and commentary during the Supreme Soviet session as to give a rather shocking picture of vast neglect, waste and abuse of these resources. The speeches and new legislation on this subject serve notice that these malpractices are not to be tolerated and that both individual and "corporate"

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offenders will be brought to justice and punished with increased severity.

From press and radio commentary on the changes in the RSFSR penal code, increased severity and harsher punishments are also envisaged for criminals of most categories. There is a suggestion that dangerous recidivists may more frequently face death sentences, and that such persons as speculators, swindlers and confidence-men will be subject to longer sentences than previously. On the other hand, there seems to be some dissatisfaction with abuse of authority by the extra-judicial "comradely" and "public-social courts", particularly with regard to the ever more frequent action of such "courts" in summarily condemning as anti-social elements and recommending for exile to other areas persons termed spongers and free-loaders. That no "anti-parasite" law has yet been adopted for the RSFSR may indicate second thoughts on the wisdom now of turning over essentially penal authority to such "public-social" organs without sufficient advance preparation and workable "checks and balances" controls. (Too often, they seem to have had the nature of irresponsible "kangaroo" courts. It may be significant that the new code is to provide for prosecution and punishment for slander.)

9. Party Necrology: The deaths of two candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee were reported this week - that of Marshal Nedelin October 24 in an otherwise unidentified "aviation catastrophe" and of Arkhangel'sk Oblast Party First Secretary S.P. LONGINOV October 26. No reasons were given for Loginov's passing.

A Soviet citizen returning from Ryazan is reported to have mentioned a big scandal there involving the revelation of fraud in the highly touted success of that oblast a year ago in meat production, a scandal which is said to have given rise to speculation as to whether the death of Ryazan Oblast First Secretary and CPSU Central Committee member A.N. LARIONOV September 22 (WEEKA No. 41 of Oct. 7, 1960) may have been a suicide.

10. Appointments to RSFSR Council of Ministers: Among the various appointments made by the Presidium of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet which were endorsed by the RSFSR Supreme Soviet October 27, the following may reflect new action: Both A.S. BUKHAROV and V.P. MOSKOVSKIY are appointed Deputy Chairmen of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. Bukharov, a former chief of the Moscow Oblast Party Committee's section for Agriculture, was a Moscow Oblast Party Secretary from July 1959 to July 6, 1960 when released "in connection with transfer to other work." Consequently, his "new" appointment may go back to the later date. Moskovskiy is apparently the V.P. MOSKOVSKIY who has been Chief of the Central Committee's important Propaganda and Agitation Section for the RSFSR.

The appointments of S.A. KUCHKIN to be RSFSR Minister of River Fleet and A.V. NOSENKOV to head the RSFSR State Committee for Matters of Local Industry and Handicraft Enterprises have been reported previously (Embassy Despatches No. 271 of October 21 and No. 278 of October 25, respectively).

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